

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SP-03

CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

AGR-20 FEA-02 IGA-02 INT-08 DRC-01 ARAE-00 /153 W
----- 074788

P R 271920Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0214

INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1528

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, ECON, GY

SUBJECT: BURNHAM MAKES NON-COMMITAL COMMENTS ON REYNOLDS
NEGOTIATIONS DURING 8/24 PRESS CONFERENCE

REFC (A) GEORGETOWN 1518 (B) GEORGETOWN 1219

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS AUGUST 24 STATEMENT ON ECONOMIC
CONDITIONS (REFTEL A) PM BURNHAM ENTERTAINED QUESTIONS FROM
LOCAL PRESS. REYNOLDS TALKS WERE TWICE SUBJECT OF
CORRESPONDENTS' QUESTIONS. IN FIRST
INSTANCE, BURNHAM MERELY NOTED THAT IT WOULD BE
IMPROPER FOR HIM TO ELABORATE ON TALKS, AND THAT
DISCUSSIONS WERE CONTINUING. IN SECOND REFERENCE
TO REYNOLDS, BURNHAM COMMENTED ON BAUXITE LEVY IN
GENERAL TERMS, STATING THAT GOG HAD TO BE QUOTE
IN POSSESSION OF ALL OF THE FACTS UNQUOTE, AND
INDICATING THAT CALCINED WOULD BE TREATED
DIFFERENTLY FROM METAL GRADE IN TAX FORMULA. HE ALSO AVOIDED
ANSWERING DIRECTLY WHETHER OR NOT LEGISLATION HAS ALREADY BEEN
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DRAFTED ON THE BAUXITE LEVY. IN BOTH CASES BURNHAM

ANSWERS WERE DISPASSIONATE.

END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. COMMENT: PROBABLY ON ADVICE OF FONMIN RAMPHAL, BURNHAM DECDED NOT TO MAKE ISSUE OF REYNOLDS CASE DURING RECENT ADDRESS/CONFERENCE. PRESS MAY HAVE BEEN BRIEFED IN ADVANCE NOT TO QUESTION PRIME MINISTER EXTENSIVELY ON REYNOLDS. AT ONE POINT IN CONFERENCE WHEN REYNOLDS QUESTION WAS ABOUT TO ASSUME MORE DETAILED PROPORTION, GUYANA BROADCASTING SERVICE (GBS) CHIEF TURNED SUBJECT AWAY FROM REYNOLDS. BURNHAM'S RELATIVELY MILD TONE (AS COMPARED TO LINDEN SPEECH - REF B) SUPPORTS ASSUMPTION THAT HE HAS NOT RPT NOT YET MADE UP HIS MIND ON HOW HEAVY TAX WILL BE. KREBS

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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